



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021

No. 175

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, create in us a hunger and thirst for righteousness. May Your presence and power direct our actions. Strengthen our Senators to do the work of freedom. Rescue them from trouble and give them triumph over life's trials. Lord, remind them that all things are possible to those who believe in You.

O God, who rules forever, hear our prayers. Incline Your ears to us and grant us Your peace. Keep us from slipping as we trust You to save us.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Paloma Adams-Allen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The majority leader is recognized.

BUILD BACK BETTER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, on Build Back Better, Democrats continue their work this week to iron out the details of our Build Back Better agenda—a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rebuild ladders for working families to reach the middle class, to help people stay in the middle class who are already there, and to secure another century of American prosperity.

Last night, I held another round of extensive talks with top officials from the White House, with the Speaker, and with my Senate colleagues. We made good progress, and we continue our talks later this week. There is more work to do, so we are going to keep at it. We are going to work at this every day until we can get it done.

I want to thank my colleagues, the Speaker, and the White House for everything they are doing to finalize this important bill. It is a rare opportunity to do something big for the American people, and we will press ahead until we pass both a bipartisan infrastructure bill and our Build Back Better agenda into law.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. President, now, on the debt ceiling, last night, as you know, I filed cloture on legislation sent to us by the House of Representatives that provides for a suspension of the debt ceiling until December of 2022.

The Senate is going to hold that vote tomorrow, and, once again, Members of

this body will face a choice: We can bring this Republican-manufactured debt ceiling crisis to a swift end or Republicans can keep barreling our country ever closer to the first default in American history.

By now, it is perfectly clear which political party is working to prevent a default on the debt and which party is deliberately and almost cynically rooting for one. Republicans have been offered multiple opportunities to deescalate this crisis they have created. Yet, each time, the Republican leader has chosen to magnify it instead.

Last week, Democrats offered a commonsense proposal that would have addressed the debt ceiling on a bipartisan basis; Republicans voted, instead, to default.

Democrats then offered Republicans what the Republican leader said they have wanted by proposing a simple majority vote—exactly what happened in the early 2000s—and, again, Republicans blocked it in favor of default.

By now, it is clear that despite what they say, Republicans seem intent on seeing the United States miss out on its payment for the first time ever. They seem perfectly at ease telling the American people, including our Active military, our Social Security recipients, and all those who rely on Medicare, that they are unequivocally the party of default—the Republicans are unequivocally the party of default. And some of them seem to be proud of it.

It is hard to believe that one of America's two major parties would be willing to jeopardize our entire economy and irrevocably damage our standing throughout the world just because they don't like that the party that won the election is following through on its agenda to help American families. But that is what is exactly going on here.

Now, to be clear—let's be very clear—tomorrow's vote is simply a cloture vote. It is not a vote to raise the debt ceiling; it is, rather, a procedural step to let Democrats raise the debt ceiling

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S6897